Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing
CHILLIWACK RIVER
MASTER PLAN
APRIL, 1980

Lower Mainland Region
Park Operations Branch
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
North Vancouver, B. C. V7G 1L3

CHILLIWACK RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

April, 1980

G. Trachuk
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: G. Trachux
Director
Planning and Design Branch

Date: January 19, 1980

File: 2-7-4-6-27

Re: Chilliwack River Park - Master Plan

The attached plan has been reviewed and is recommended for your approval.

B. Price
Coordinator
Master Planning

THB/mar

Attachment

Recommended [signature] 19-1-81
G.F. Macnab Date

Approved [signature] Jan 20/81
G. Trachux Date

105-03421/

G. Trachuk
Director
Planning and Design Branch
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
Victoria, B. C.

J. C. Leman
Regional Director
Lower Mainland Region
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
North Vancouver, B. C.

This Master Plan for Chilliwack River Provincial Park

is submitted for your approval.

J. C. Leman
Regional Director

Approved: George Trachuk Jan 20/81
G. Trachuk
Director

Recommended: D. H. Eggen May 26/80.
D. H. Eggen
District Superintendent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
A. Introduction	1
B. Statement of Purpose	4
C. Park Resources Statement	5
D. Zoning	8
F. General Management Statement	10
F. Specific Management Plans	11
G Plan Implementation Strategy	14

APPENDIX I.....Chilliwack River Valley Protection Association Park Proposal

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Location Map	2
2. Regional Recreation Opportunities	3
3. Natural Recreation Features	7
4. Zoning	9
5. Development Plan	13
6. Phasing	15

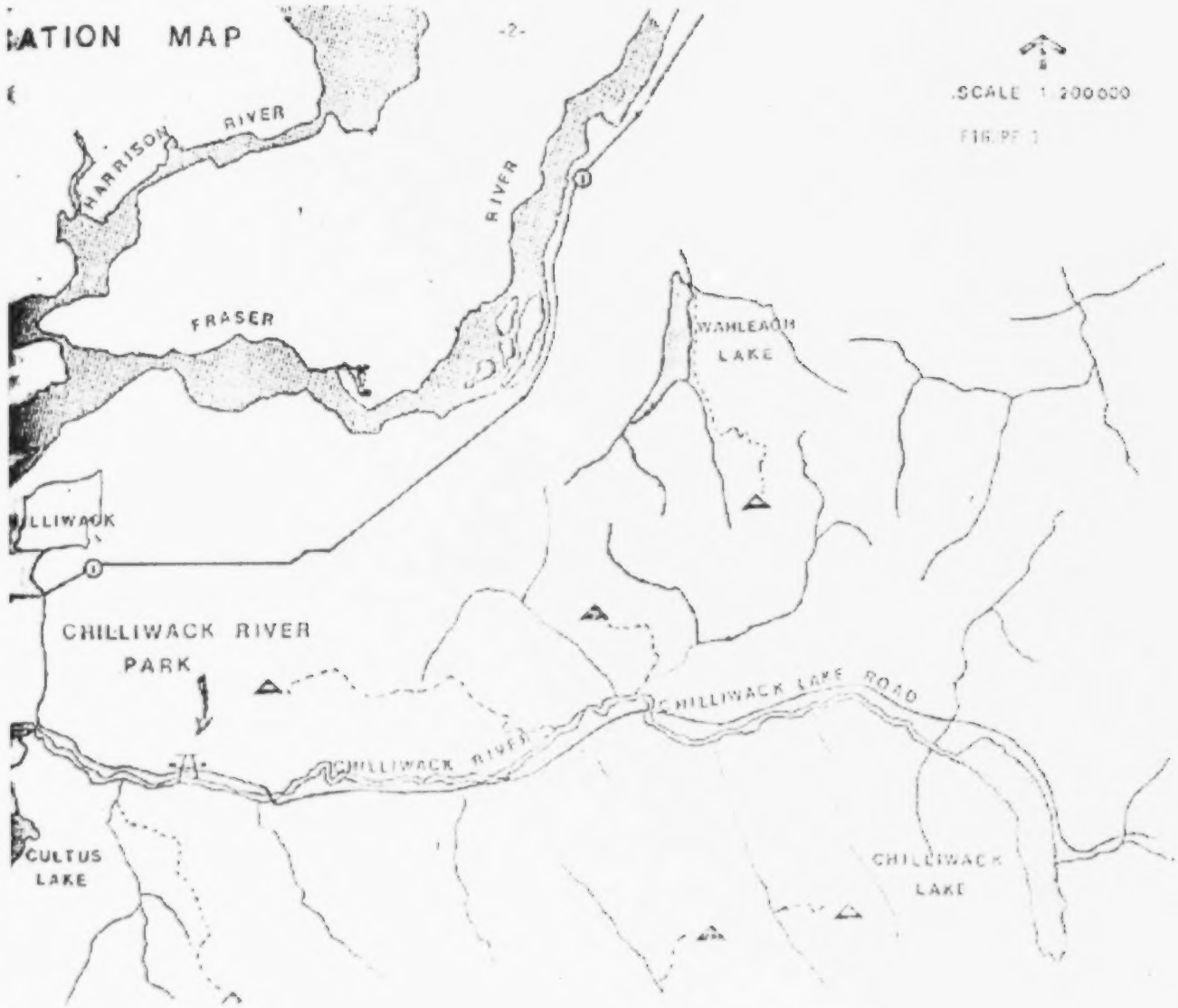
A. INTRODUCTION

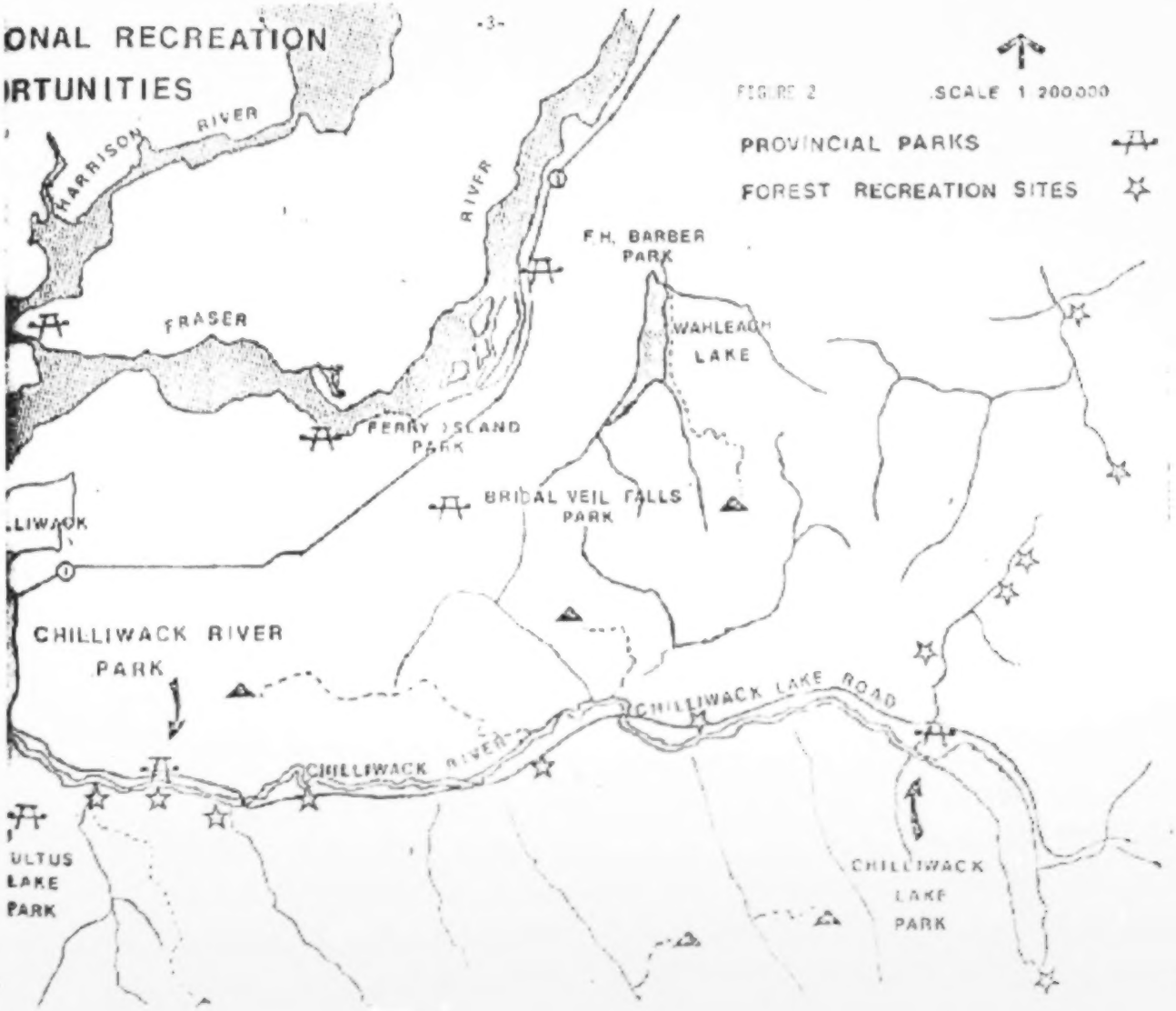
The Chilliwack River flows westward from glacier-fed Chilliwack Lake to the flood plain of the lower Fraser River. Its broad valley, framed by the western Cascade Mountains, lies in the wet subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone.

The recreational value of the Chilliwack River has long been recognized. Its location has made it accessible to the large urban population of the Lower Mainland and its inherent features initially made it popular for fishing, especially steelhead. Later, logging roads opened up access to the nearby alpine and subalpine meadows, which soon became a popular hiking and climbing attraction.

In recent years, river-oriented recreation has become increasingly popular. Easy access to both sides of the river provides many opportunities for all types and levels of canoeists, kayakers and rafters. To accommodate such use, both the Forest Service and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division have set aside lands for recreation and have established recreational facilities.

Chilliwack River Park (Figure 1) is located 10 km southeast of the town of Chilliwack and was established as a Class 'A' Provincial Park in 1961. This currently undeveloped park contains 26 hectares.


NATION MAP
-2-
SCALE 1:200000
HARRISON RIVER
FRASER RIVER
WAHLEACH LAKE
CHILLIWACK RIVER PARK
CHILLIWACK LAKE ROAD
CHILLIWACK RIVER
CULTUS LAKE
CHILLIWACK LAKE


ONAL RECREATION
IRTUNITIES
-3-
FIGURE 2
SCALE 1:200,000
PROVINCIAL PARKS
FOREST RECREATION SITES
HARRISON
RIVER
FRASER
RIVER
F.H. BARBER
PARK
WAHLEACH
LAKE
FERRY ISLAND
PARK
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
PARK
LIWACK
CHILLIWACK RIVER
PARK
CHILLIWACK LAKE ROAD
CHILLIWACK RIVER
ULTUS
LAKE
PARK
CHILLIWACK
LAKE
PARK

B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Within the Lower Mainland Region, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, in close concert with the recreation efforts of the Ministry of Forests, will provide a diverse system of parks to serve the recreational needs of tourists and local residents. Based on the existing recreation features and patterns of the Chilliwack River Valley, the goals and objectives of the Division can best be met by providing diversified, day-oriented, easy access riverfront park opportunities.

The park opportunities at Chilliwack River Provincial Park will include picnicking, nature study based on the riverine environment and river access for canoeing, fishing and kayaking.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

C. PARK RESOURCES STATEMENT

Chilliwack River Provincial Park lies in the wetter subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone. Its floodplain environment further accentuates the role of water in this park as a manipulator of not only the land but also the vegetation.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Traces of the fluvial processes that shaped the area are visible everywhere. Some of the old and existing river channels making up the floodplain form ideal spawning and rearing areas for salmonids as well as being attractive environments for walking and picnicking. Beaver have dammed some channels north of the Chilliwack Lake road, creating a special habitat for other forms of wildlife than just themselves.

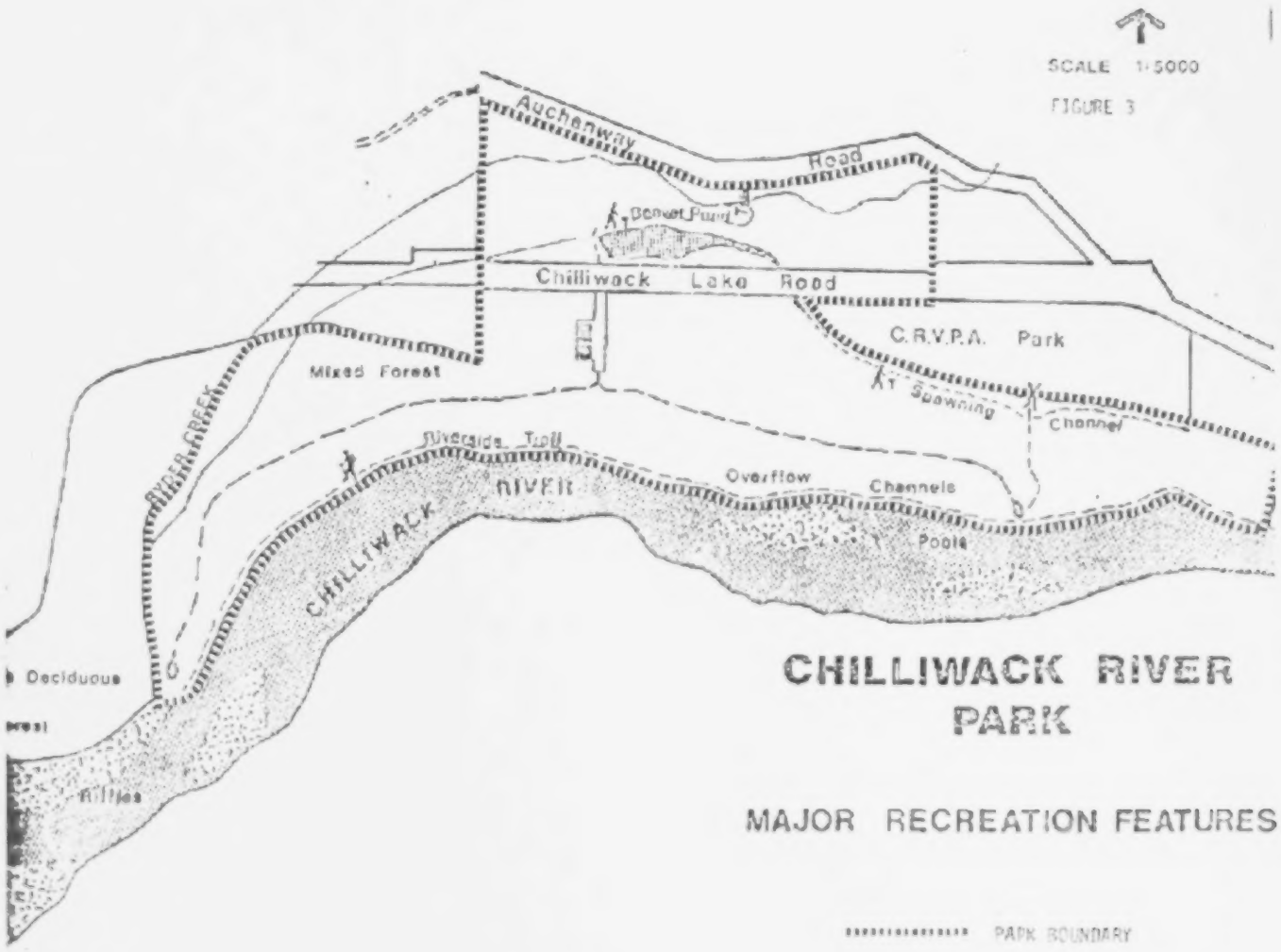
The Chilliwack River itself is extensively used for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. The portion of the river fronting the park is classified as Grade 1 to Grade 2 water. Many pools and back eddies provide easy entry and exit points along the river which are ideal for improving paddling skills. Chutes along gravel bars provide a challenge for more advanced canoeists.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

The Chilliwack River provides a good opportunity for sport fishing. In one year, over 36,000 angler days were attributed to steelhead fishing alone. The river also provides good spawning habitat for other salmonids such as chum, coho and sockeye.

Figure 3 shows the major recreational attractions of the park.


SCALE 1:5000
FIGURE 3
Auchenway
Road
Bennet Pond
Chilliwack Lake Road
C.R.V.P.A. Park
Mixed Forest
Spawning
Channel
Riverside Trail
Overflow Channels
RIVER
CHILLIWACK
Pools
Deciduous
Riffles
CHILLIWACK RIVER
PARK
MAJOR RECREATION FEATURES
PARK BOUNDARY

D. ZONING

Figure 4 illustrates the zoning plan for the park.

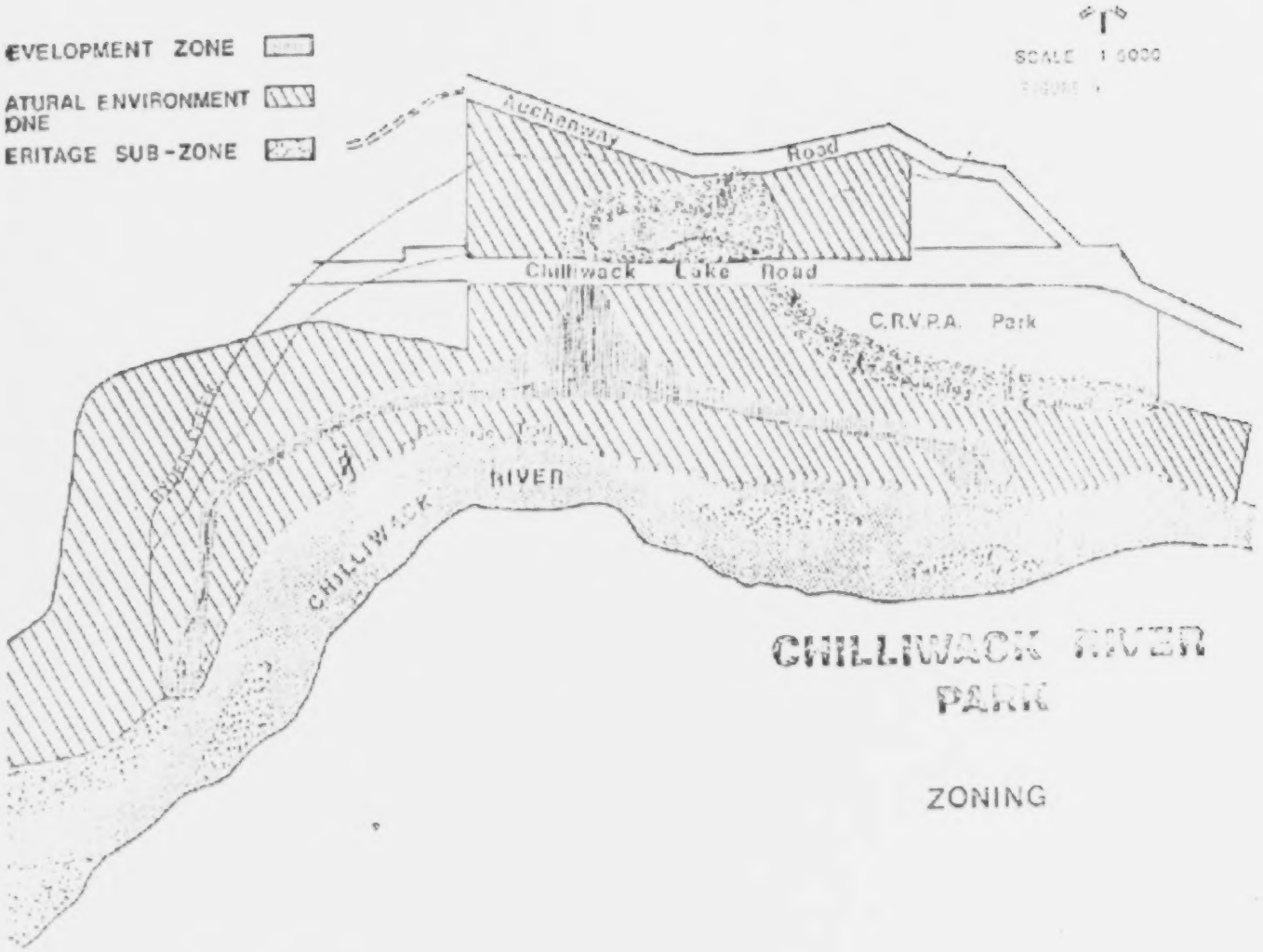
The **Development Zone** includes the area where construction of facilities is necessary to enhance or enable public recreation for fishing, picnicking, hiking and river access. Development will mainly consist of improving primitive facilities now in place.

The **Natural Environment Zone** is essentially a passive zone, retained primarily as habitat with development restricted to existing access trails.

The **Heritage Sub-Zone** is divided into two areas that are of particular interest. The beaver pond north of the highway contains a variety of aquatic life. The old river channel separating the park from the community park has the potential to be developed and interpreted as a spawning channel in conjunction with federal Fisheries and the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

BEAVER POND NORTH OF THE HIGHWAY


EVELOPMENT ZONE
ATURAL ENVIRONMENT ONE
ERITAGE SUB-ZONE
SCALE 1:5000
Auchenway
Road
Chilliwack Lake Road
C.R.V.P.A. Park
RIVER
CHILLIWACK
CHILLIWACK RIVER
PARK
ZONING

E. GENERAL MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

In view of the importance of the Chilliwack River as salmonid spawning and rearing habitat, the overall management of Chilliwack River Park will necessitate close co-operation with federal and provincial fisheries departments. Recreation potentials will be managed to provide day-use, river-oriented opportunities for the residents of the Fraser Valley and their visitors.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

F. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Resource Management Plans

Normal resource management procedures will be implemented at the park with an added emphasis on fishing. The Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans has shown interest in developing a ground water spawning channel for Chum and Coho salmon. This action will be encouraged and integrated with the interpretation facilities available at the park.

2. Visitor Management Plans

In an effort to make the area more accessible to day users, the following developments are proposed:

a) A 20-car parking lot will be constructed in the centre of the park and service roads will be built from there to the canoe launch and Ryder Creek picnic areas;

b) Two picnic sites will be constructed and service roads will be built to maintain them:
   i) Ryder Creek - at the confluence of Ryder Creek and the Chilliwack River;
   ii) Canoe Launch - at the east end of the park;

c) A canoe launch site will be provided at the east end of the park;

d) Riverside Trail - the trail along the river bank will be improved to connect the picnic areas;

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

F. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

2. **Visitor Management Plan**- Continued

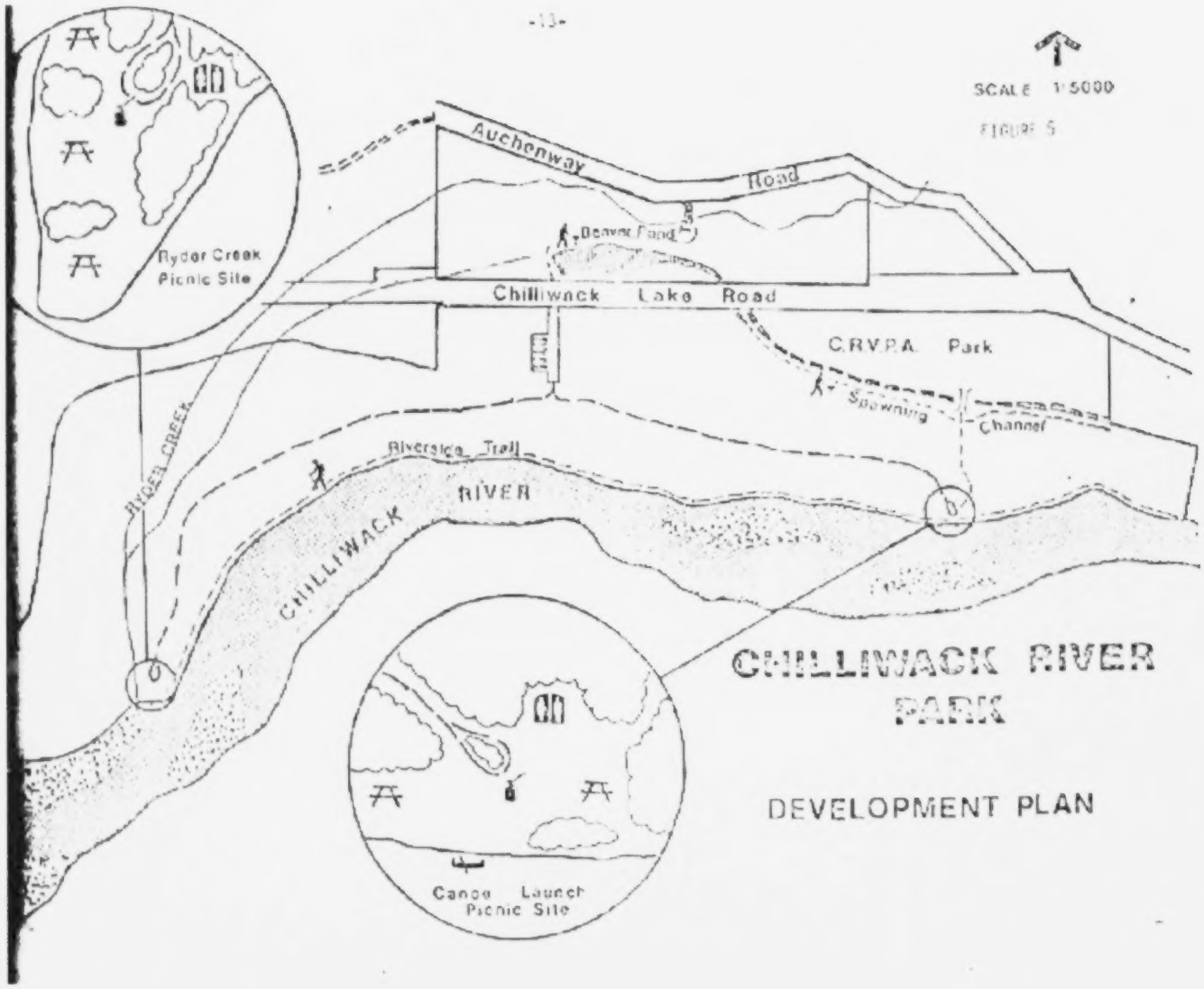
e) Beaver Pond Trail - A self-guiding interpretive trail focussing on the aquatic plant and animal life will be built from Chilliwack Lake Road (opposite the park entrance) around the beaver pond to Auchenway Road;

f) Spawning Channel Trail - An interpretive trail will be constructed along the ground water spawning channel, once it is completed by the Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, to facilitate public awareness of fisheries enhancement projects.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Canoe Launch Site

Figure 5 shows the projected development.


-13-
SCALE 1:5000
FIGURE 5
Auchenway
Road
Beaver Pond
Chilliwack Lake Road
Ryder Creek
Picnic Site
C.R.V.P.A. Park
Spawning
Channel
Riverside Trail
RYDER CREEK
CHILLIWACK
RIVER
Canoe Launch
Picnic Site
CHILLIWACK RIVER
PARK
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

F. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

3. Administrative Plans

The administration of this park will be based at Cultus Lake with normal management practices implemented.

G. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Based on the current use patterns, the park will be developed in the following stages:

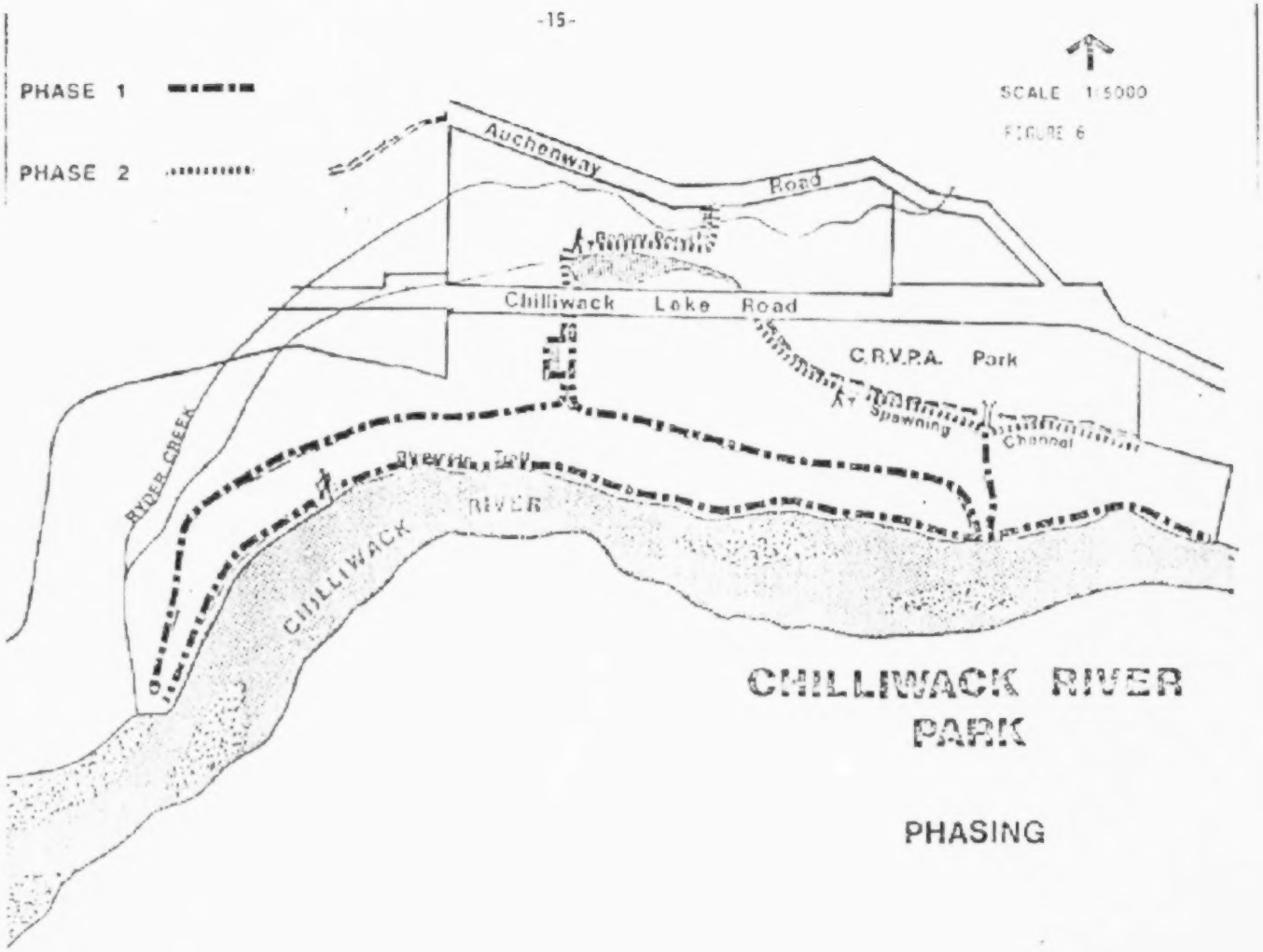
Phase 1

1. Construct a trail from the Chilliwack River Valley Protection Association park to the canoe launch and picnic area.
2. Upgrade the "Riverside Trail."
3. Construct a 20-car parking lot in the centre of the park.
4. Construct a service road to the mouth of Ryder Creek.
5. Place a canoe launch at the east end of the park.
6. Construct a service road to the canoe launch.
7. Construct "Canoe Launch" and Ryder Creek" picnic areas.

Phase 2

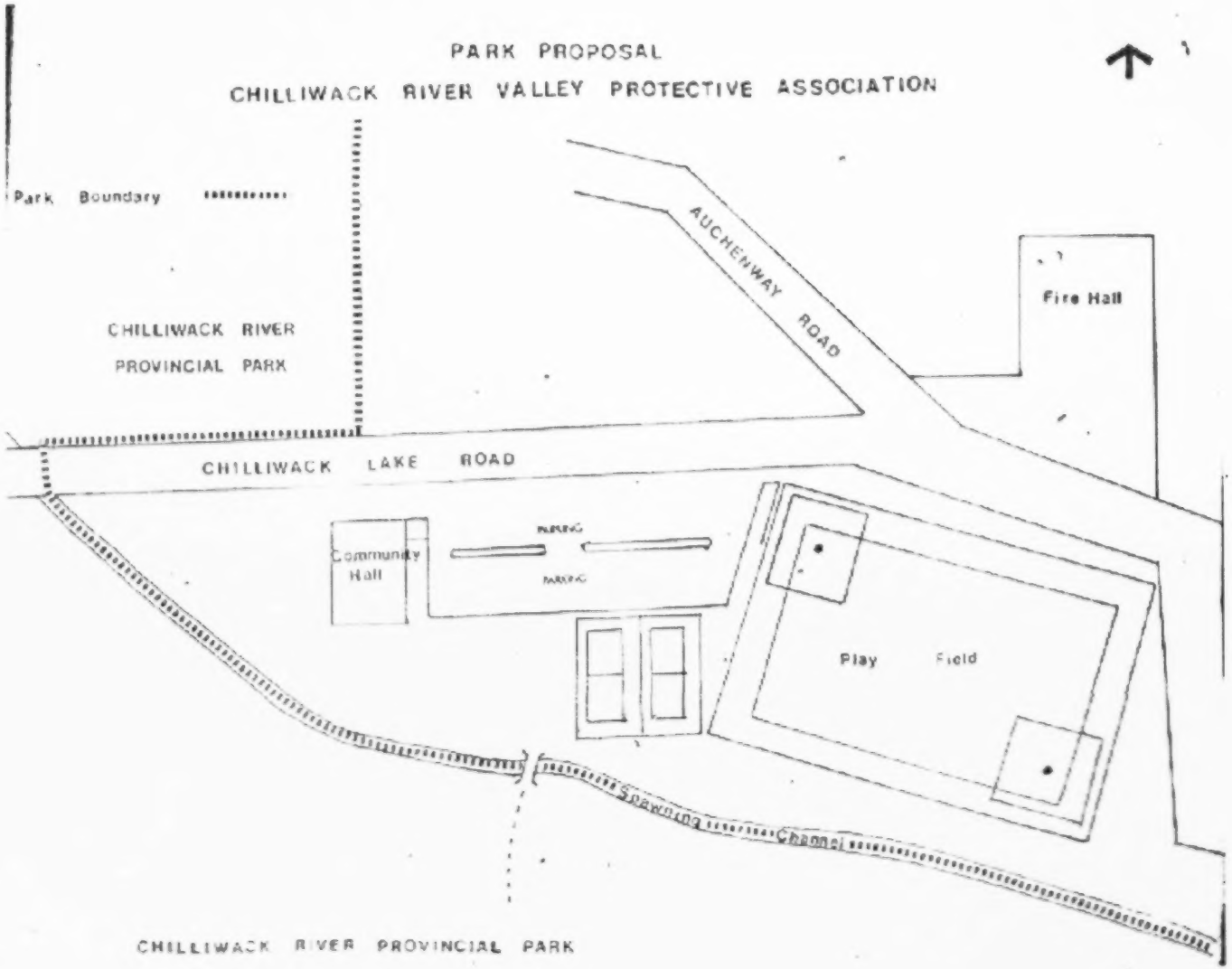
1. Construct the "Beaver Pond" interpretive loop.
2. Construct the "Spawning Channel" interpretive trail.

Figure 6 illustrates the phasing of construction.


-15-
PHASE 1
PHASE 2
SCALE 1:5000
FIGURE 6
Auchenway
Road
Chilliwack Lake Road
C.R.V.P.A. Park
Spawning
Channel
RYDER CREEK
CHILLIWACK
RIVER
CHILLIWACK RIVER
PARK
PHASING

APPENDIX I

Chilliwack River Valley Protective Association


PARK PROPOSAL
CHILLIWACK RIVER VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Park Boundary
CHILLIWACK RIVER
PROVINCIAL PARK
AUCHENWAY ROAD
Fire Hall
CHILLIWACK LAKE ROAD
Community Hall
Play Field
Spawning Channel
CHILLIWACK RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK